**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in this application (in the unlikely event that no claims follow herein, the previously pending claims will remain):

1. (Original) Process for increasing the molecular weight of a polyamide via solid-state post-condensation by exposing the polyamide prepolymer in the solid-state at elevated temperature to an inert gas atmosphere, characterized in that the process comprises a step (a) wherein the gas atmosphere to which the polyamide is exposed has a dew temperature Tdew-1 followed by a step (b) wherein the gas atmosphere to which the polyamide is exposed has a dew temperature $T_{dew-2}$, whereby $T_{dew-1}$ is higher than $T_{dew-2}$.

2. (Original) Process according to Claim 1, wherein the polyamide is polyamide-6 or polyamide-12.

3. (Original) Process according to Claim 1, wherein the polyamide has a melting temperature of at least 260°C.

4. (Original) Process according to Claim 3, wherein the polyamide is chosen from the group consisting of polyamide-4. 6, copolymers thereof, polyamide-6. 6 and copolymers thereof.

5. (Currently amended) Process according to ~~any of Claims 1-4~~ Claim 1, wherein $T_{dew-1}$ is at least 10°C higher than $T_{dew-2}$.

6. (Currently amended) Process according to ~~any of Claims 1-5~~ Claim 1, wherein $T_{dew-2}$ is at most 20°C.

7. (Currently amended) Process according to ~~any of Claims 1-6~~ Claim 1, wherein $T_{dew-2}$, L is at least 30°C.

8. (Currently amended) Process according to ~~any of Claims 1-7~~ Claim 1, wherein the gas atmospheres of step (a) and step (b) have a temperature between 20°C and 100°C BELOW the melting temperature of the polyamide polymer.

9. (Currently amended) Process according to ~~any of Claims 1-8~~ Claim 1, wherein the gas atmosphere of step (a) has a temperature TUAS 1 and the gas atmosphere in step (b) has a temperature Tgas-2, whereby TUAS 1 is at least 10°C higher than Tgas-2.

10. (Currently amended) Process according to ~~any of claims 1-9~~ Claim 1, wherein the polyamide has an initial- viscosity number VNO of at most 100 ML/G.

11. (Currently amended) Process according to ~~any of Claims 1-10~~ Claim 1, wherein at the end of step (a), the polyamide has an intermediate-viscosity corresponding with a viscosity number VN, NT and at the end of step (b) the polyamide polymer has an end- viscosity corresponding with a viscosity number VNEND, whereby VN, NT is at most 90% of VNend, measured according to ISO 307.

12. (Currently amended) Process according to ~~any of Claims 1-11~~ Claim 1, wherein step (b) is started after the polyamide in step (a) has obtained an intermediate-viscosity corresponding with a viscosity number VN, NT of at least 70 ml/g, measured according to ISO 307.

13. (Currently amended) Process according to ~~any of Claims 1-12~~ Claim 1, wherein the polyamide comprises it least one additive chosen from a group comprising fillers, reinforcing agents, flame retardants, colorants and stabilizers.